THE ZOOGOER

volume 4, number 1

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Front Cover: Unusual lance-like nose distinguishes the spear nosed bat. It can be found in Central and South America, and Honduras.

Back Cover: The common snapper lunges, snaps, and hisses loudly when disturbed.

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Photograph on page 7, by John Malen, NZP: on page 9 by Russell Mittermeier, Harvard University; on page 16, 17, and 18 courtesy of the New York Zoological Society; all others by Ray Faass.

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Eyes in the Dark

Almost anyone who has driven through Rock Creek Park at night knows that's when the raccoons cross the road. In the daytime you can see their tracks on virtually every trail leading to the creek, but you don't see them. Still it is a bit of a surprise to see a wide-awake raccoon going about his business at two in the morning.

Man, a daytime animal, seldom realizes that a whole different set of creatures takes over at night. Some, like the raccoon, may once have been more frequently abroad by day than they are now. Because our noisy species has pre-empted the daylight hours, others have shifted their activities to a time when we are not around. But many have evolved a nocturnal existence independent of man. A night light on a porch in summer attracts insects by the thousands. And where there are insects there are sure to be other animals to feed on them, like bats, shrews, flying squirrels, screech owls, and whippoor-wills. In the tropics, the number of such species is much greater.

To survive the night world, animals must have ways of overcoming the

On previous page: Big, bright eyes enable the bush-baby to see at night. The squirrel sized primate inhabits Africa's grass woodlands south of the Sahara.

Owls, like this tawny frogmouth from Australasia can spot and capture prey on the darkest of nights.

great omnipresent handicap—darkness. Many depend on smell—a sense that is usually only slightly less effective at night, and that's because temperatures then are usually lower than the ideal temperature for transmitting odors. All nocturnal mammals have keen noses. The only birds with a keen sense of smell are the nocturnal kiwis.

Bigger Eyes Are Better

The senses that have undergone the greatest modification for nocturnal life are eyesight and hearing. In pitch dark, of course, no animal can see. But, even far from the eternal lights of human cities, there is almost always some moonlight or starlight. Nocturnal animals have evolved amazing ways of making use of the scant amount of light available to them. A barn owl for example, can see and recognize prey six feet away in light that is only one one-hundredth as intense as the minimum amount of light in which a man can see anything at all.

Look at a bushbaby in the Zoo's Small Mammal House. The bushbaby is a cousin of ours, a fellow primate. But notice how large his eyes are compared to ours and those of such other primates as monkeys. That's one way of adapting to nocturnal existence: increase the size of the pupil to let in more light. Humans make use of the same principle by dilating their pupils to see at night.

Nocturnal vision is best developed in two groups—nocturnal predators like the owl and nocturnal treeclimbers like the bushbaby. The predators have a special need to see well in order to catch their prey. Examples include the numerous members of the cat family, probably the most keen-sighted of all nocturnal hunters. The tree-dwellers—including exotic species like the potto, loris, and dourocouli, as well as our own flying squirrel—have a special need because sure-footedness is vital high in the trees.

Aside from a larger pupil, the eye of a vertebrate frequently has a number of other specializations for seeing in dim light. One is that the lens is much closer to the retina than it is in diurnal species. The effect is to make the image brighter—like a magnifying glass brightens diffuse sunlight close-up. A daytime animal does not need so bright an image; indeed it would damage the retina. Thus if awakened in the day, nocturnal species can close the pupil down to a tiny slit.

A cat's eyes glow at night by flashlight. This indicates the presence of another specialization for night vision, found in many nocturnal vertebrates from owls to galagos. Known to zoologists as the *tapetum lucidum,* which is Latin for "bright covering," it consists of one or more layers of cells behind the retina and functions like a mirror. Any light that has escaped through the retina is reflected back by the *tapetum lucidum* thus enabling the retina to make use of every scrap of illumination available.

A photographer using a very wide aperture sacrifices some of the clarity of his image. So, it is likely that most nocturnal animals see a "blurry" world. Many may see only signs of movement, or sudden changes in light and shadow. This is, of course, all you really need if you are primarily interested in spotting enemies or prey. But such animals' impressions of the size and shape of what they see are probably quite vague. The *tapetum lucidum* further blurs the image. It picks up the maximum available light, but inevitably is not very exact about the source of that light. Color vision, too, is a needless luxury at night; and few, if any, nocturnal vertebrates can see colors.

Some nocturnal vertebrates have such large eyes that they cannot move freely in their sockets. So, a number of such species have very flexible necks. Contrary to folk belief, an owl cannot turn its head all the way around. But it can turn its head 270 degrees or three quarters of a full circle.

Woodcock Sees Better Backwards

Another nocturnal bird, the woodcock, cannot turn its head with equal ease, but its eyes are placed so far back that it can see better behind its head than in front! The woodcock spends its nights probing in damp soil with its bill in search of earthworms, but it still is

ready to see the approach of a predator from the rear.

The phenomenal hearing of night-flying bats has received a good deal of publicity since experiments in the 1940's and '50's proved conclusively that bats can navigate at night by hearing alone. The bat emits a constant stream of screeches too high-pitched for a human to hear. These sounds ricochet off objects in the bat's flight-path; and by the echoing sounds that are returned to him, the bat can gauge the position of an object. The object in question may be quite small.

Insect-eating bats can zero in on flying prey by means of echoes. In an early experiment, piano wires were strung at random locations from the ceiling to floor of a large room. A bat, its eyes covered, was released and successfully evaded every wire in its path around the room.

The "sonar" system developed by the U.S. Navy employs a similar method of bouncing sound off objects for underwater long-distance detection. Radar, too, is based on a similar principle, although it uses radio waves instead of sounds.

Snake Has "Sixth Sense"

As if the five senses most vertebrates rely on were not enough, some nocturnal snakes have developed a "sixth sense" not found in man or in most other animals. A rattlesnake has two pits between his nostrils and his eyes that are sensitive to radiant heat. The boas have similar heat sensitive organs around the mouth. These snakes prey mainly on small warmblooded animals, and some can detect the heat given off by a mouse a foot away. Like most nocturnal animals, the eyes of snakes give only a vague impression of movement. But the heat-sensitive pits enable the snake to locate a potential prey and strike with deadly accuracy.

A common Australian mammal, the sugar glider uses its large gliding membranes to soar like "flying" squirrels. Their "see in the dark" eyes enable them to catch moths in flight.

ZOONEWS

First Kiwi Birth Outside Homeland

This brown island kiwi is the first successfully hatched outside of Australasia. It was photographed at two weeks.

The hatching of a kiwi at the Bird House January 25th was the first ever outside Australasia and received international attention among zoo people. The national bird of New Zealand is rare and strictly protected. Any zoo is lucky to be able to exhibit this flightless and most unbirdlike bird.

Like nearly everything else about the kiwi, its breeding behavior is highly unconventional for a bird. First of all, the egg is very large. It is, in fact, the largest egg in relation to the size of the mother producing it to be found anywhere in the animal kingdom. A seven-pound female kiwi lays a one-pound egg. Not surprisingly, she is worn out simply by laying. The male obligingly takes on the entire task of incubation and care of the chick. Incubation lasts 75 to 78 days. This is an extraordinarily long time, considering that a duck weighing about the same as a kiwi hatches its clutch of several eggs in 30 days.

The kiwi is nocturnal. The Zoo keeps its kiwi cage darkened in the daytime and brightly lit at night to encourage the birds to be active when they can be seen. As yet, however, only very lucky or patient visitors are likely to see the kiwis. The best times are days when there are few visitors in the building. However, the new kiwi chick is already showing signs that it may grow up to be a good bit bolder than its parents. The young bird is a voracious eater, consuming 200 night-crawlers daily.

There are three species of kiwi, found only in New Zealand. Their hair-like plumage sets them apart from all other living birds. They lost the power of flight because New Zealand had no mammalian predators till man introduced them, and the kiwi had no need to fly in order to escape danger. When predators—cats, dogs, foxes, and weasels—did arrive, they soon threatened the kiwi's survival. The kiwi had evolved a way of dealing with any trouble that might come to it in its previous, virtually enemy-less existence—a good swift kick. It is amusing to see that a kiwi will use the same tactic against so formidable a potential threat as a man. When a keeper is working in the Zoo's kiwi cage, one of the birds may run up to him and kick him in the ankle.

Bears Breed Better With Quieter Dens

New, sound-proof cubbing dens have been provided for the Zoo's bears, and the results have been dramatic. Sloth bears, Kodiak bears, and European brown bears have produced young this winter. All the cubs are doing well, and it looks as if the Zoo has overcome one of the major obstacles to breeding bears in captivity—the "Cozyden factor," as one zoo man has called it.

A female bear is a very jittery mother. In captivity, a loud sound in her surroundings—a truck backfiring, a keeper accidentally knocking over a bucket—may be enough to cause her to panic. And in panic, she may destroy her cubs. If this seems heartless to us, we should consider that it is natural behavior, in the interest of the species' survival. In the wild, a noise would probably mean the approach of a predator. If the mother eats the cubs herself, at least the substantial amount of energy expended in their production is not lost to her or to the species. If she simply abandons them, they will be eaten in any case—and by an enemy.

"Anna", a European brown bear gave birth to three cubs this winter. A model mother, she has produced thirty-four cubs for the National Zoo.

After ten years of togetherness the Zoo's pair of night monkeys produced their first offspring in December. The birth is rare in captivity. Night monkeys inhabit the forests of South America.

Rare Birth of Night Monkeys

A pair of night monkeys or dourocoulis in the Small Mammal House gave birth to their first young in December. It is quite rare to breed this unusual monkey in captivity. The Zoo's recent birth is doubly gratifying since the pair have lived together many years without breeding. The male was born here in 1959, and a young mate was acquired for him in 1964. Fortunately this is a long-lived species and has been known to live in captivity as long as 23 years.

The dourocouli is the only nocturnal monkey, so it is of special interest to the zoologist. It has the large eyes and excellent hearing typical of nocturnal animals. Unlike many other monkeys, dourocoulis do not live in large groups but in pairs. Nocturnal animals tend to be less social, for reasons of safety at night and secrecy by day.

The dourocouli is native to the tropical forests of South America. It spends its life in the trees, sleeping during the day in a hollow trunk. It eats fruit, nuts, leaves, insects, birds' eggs, tree-frogs, and snails.

ZOOMAP

KEY TO THE MAP

- Information Booth
- Police Station—First Aid
- Trackless Train Stop
- Restrooms
- Restaurant
- Amphitheater
- Telephone
- Parking Lot
- Bus Parking Lot
- Under Construction

1 Deer
2 African Animals
3 Kangaroos
4 Deer & Antelope
5 Delicate-Hoofed Stock
6 Giant Pandas
7 Great Flight Cage
8 Bird House
9 Birds
10 Elephant House
11 Black Rhinoceros Yard
12 Small Mammals—Great Ape House
13 Lesser Pandas
14 Prarie Dogs
15 Mammals
16 Sea Lions & Cheetahs
17 Bears
18 Gift Shop
19 Reptile House
20 Monkey House
21 Siamang Gibbon—Jaguars
22 Police—First Aid
23 Restaurant
24 Lion-Tiger Hill
25 Waterfowl Ponds
26 Administration Buildings
27 Hospital and Research Building

Reptile Sound Off

When we think of animal sounds, we think of birds chattering, lions roaring, and the plaintive whoops of the Siamang gibbon. Surprisingly, many of the denizens of the Reptile House, though usually silent, are capable of producing a wide range of sounds.

On the previous page:
Columbian horned toad is distinguished by its vivid colors and horn-like bulges above the eyes. Frogs and toads produce a variety of sounds, from whistles to growls depending on the species.

The calls of frogs and toads are familiar examples. Ranging, in different species, from high-pitched whistles to deep, rumbly growls, the calls of male frogs during the breeding season attract females and proclaim territory to other males. Such mating calls are produced with the mouth closed by forcing air over the vocal cords. Frequently there is a resonating vocal sac, which may be visible externally as a distensible pouch under the throat. The Surinam toads (in F-Section of the Reptile House) have a mating call to match their bizarre appearance. Resembling a soft tapping together of pebbles, the call is emitted under water, since these animals are entirely aquatic.

Barking Newts

In contrast to frogs and toads, salamanders and newts rarely utter a sound. However, many species have been reported to chirp, squeak, bark, and even whistle, although very rarely. These sounds have usually been produced in response to rough handling, and are generally presumed to have no

Lizards, like this rough necked monitor, scare off their enemies by hissing loudly and blowing up their bodies. Some "slap" at intruders with their tails.

adaptive significance. The Amphiuma and the California newt (both on display in F-Section) have been heard making such sounds.

Reptiles emit a great variety of vocalizations and mechanically produced sounds. They are presumed to function either as threats or "warnings" to predators or in territorial and reproductive behavior.

The "hiss" is a sound immediately associated with reptiles, and rightly so. Most turtles and tortoises hiss when they rapidly retract the head and limbs into the shell as part of their defense of retreat. This is probably an incidental sound caused by the sudden decrease in volume of the lungs. Such a sudden sound from a large turtle may startle a human. Whether it plays a defensive role in encounters with other enemies is highly speculative. Some turtles have evolved more aggressive defenses. Snapping turtles may lunge and snap as well as hiss loudly if disturbed.

Hissing is also part of the defensive display of many lizards and snakes and, probably, all crocodilians. The monitor lizards, (several species are on display in E-Section) are excellent examples. A monitor, if disturbed and unable to escape, will put on quite an impressive show of loud hissing and inflation of the body. It will also "slap" at the intruder with its tail. Many snakes, harmless as well as poisonous, also exhibit this combination of hissing and inflation of the body as a defense.

Reptiles also produce sounds to communicate between individuals of the same species. The roars of male American alligators resounding through the southern swamplands greatly impressed Colonial naturalists. Female alligators also call, though not as frequently. Even in the best-studied species, the American alligator and the Nile crocodile, there is considerable disagreement about the functions of the various vocalizations in crocodilians.

Chirp or Die

Crocodilians make fairly elaborate nests in which the eggs are laid. Female American alligators and Nile crocodiles remain on or near the nest throughout the incubation period. When the babies hatch, they chirp and the female reacts by uncovering the nest and allowing their emergence. Other calls may be given by juveniles for a time after hatching, perhaps as communication among the young and the mother. Keepers in the Reptile House have observed the juvenile black caimans (recently on display in F-3) giving three different calls at different times when approached by a keeper.

More than a foot long, the Tokay gecko, a native of Southeast Asia, is the biggest of all geckos. During courtship, geckos characteristically chirp at night.

Among most lizards that exhibit territorial and courtship behavior, visual signals are employed. However, the geckos, most of which are nocturnal, characteristically make noises. In tropical America, the head-bobbing territorial displays of male anoles in the daytime are comparable to the chirps of geckos at night (geckos and anoles may be seen in A-Section).

Rattlesnakes are perhaps the best known reptilian noisemakers. (Two species of rattlesnakes may be seen in C-1 and C-3.) The rattle is an amazing structure of interlocking, three-lobed segments made of keratin, the same substance that constitutes hair, nails, horn, and feathers. Another segment is added to the rattle at the base each time the snake sheds. The sound produced by the rapid vibration of the rattle is really not a "rattle" but a buzz. Rattlesnakes rattle only when surprised or threatened by the approach of an intruder. The sudden, strident sound is as startling to other animals as to man. In addition to rattling, an aroused rattlesnake will inflate its body, hiss, and raise its head, neck, and front body in an S-shaped loop before striking or escaping if possible. This threat display is presumed to have evolved in an environment where large grazing mammals posed a constant threat to snakes by accidentally stepping on them.

Many other snakes (like the cornsnake,

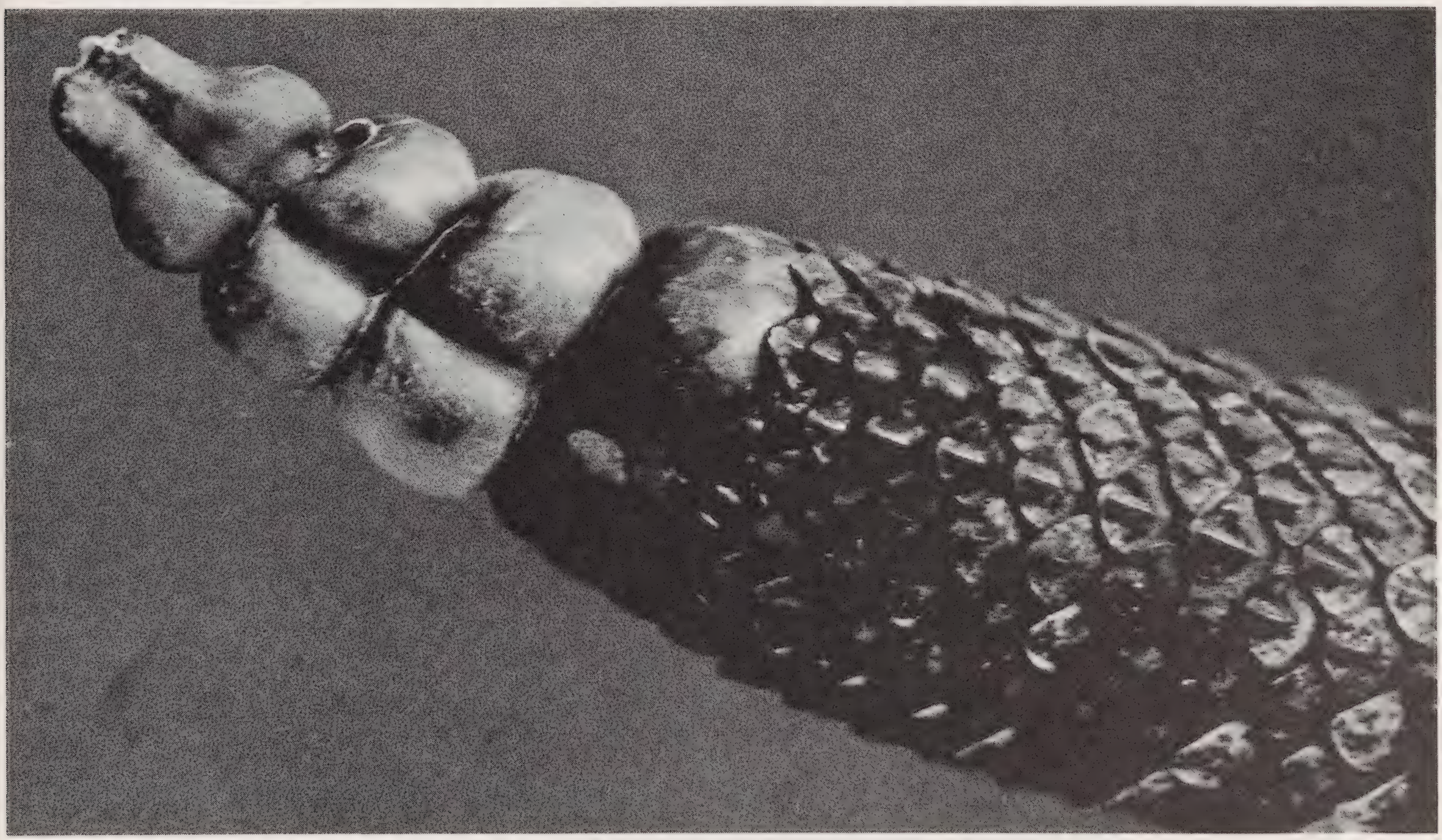
Most geckos vocalize by clicking their tongues against the roofs of their mouths producing the "yecko-gecko" sound. This African velvet or fat tailed gecko squeaks when grabbed.

black ratsnake, and copperhead in C-Section) vibrate their tails as part of their response to enemies. If the snake is lying in dry leaves, the sound can be similar to the rattling of rattlesnakes. Oddly enough, the saw-scaled viper, native to the Middle East, uses a sound similar to the buzz of the New World rattlesnakes. However, the sound is made by rapidly rubbing together the large, strongly plated scales on the sides of the body.

Most unusual is the whistle of the wood turtle. Although dismissed as improbable by herpetologists until quite recently, it is now accepted as part of their courtship (wood turtles are on display in E-13). Equally remarkable is the subtle hissing or crackling of a delicate gecko, *Teratoscincus* from the semi-deserts of the Middle East. The lizard "crackles" by rubbing together enlarged scales on the upper surface of the tail. Although the sound is made when the animal is disturbed, the possibility of its principal function being defensive is unlikely, since it is barely audible to a person a foot away. Perhaps it serves some as yet undiscovered role in the social behavior of these little-studied animals. So when next in the Reptile House, keep your ears cocked!

by Tom Keefer
Keeper, Reptile Unit

Close up of this rattlesnake's tail details the amazing structure of interlocking plates of dried skin that vibrate to produce the loud rattle or buzz sounds. Each time the snake sheds, it adds another "rattle" to its tail.



BOOKNEWS

Gathering of Animals: An Unconventional History of the New York Zoological Society

by William Bridges.
Harper & Row. $12.50.

A number of zoos and zoological societies have published their histories from time to time. Generally, such books have been of local interest only. A history of the New York Zoological Society—which runs the New York Zoological Park and the New York Aquarium—is something else again. For half a century the New York Zoological Park, better known as the Bronx Zoo, occupied a position of unchallenged pre-eminence among zoos in this hemisphere. From the very beginning it has been a leader in awakening other zoos to their responsibilities in scientific research, education, and above all wildlife conservation. Further, what other zoo has been able to claim employees whose names were household words, as those of William Beebe and Raymond L. Ditmars once were?

"The chimp that knew everything" helped produce crowds and publicity in the early days of the New York Zoological Park.

William Bridges was for many years curator of publications for the Society. Though his history is unofficial and admittedly unconventional, he has had the great advantage of access to the Society's voluminous files. William T. Hornaday, the Bronx Zoo's first Director, saved every scrap of his colorful correspondence from 1896—when there was a Zoological Society but as yet no Zoo—to his resignation in 1926. From Hornaday's letters in particular, Bridges is able to reconstruct in vivid detail the Zoo's early years. Though Bridges himself did not come on the scene until 1934, when most of the first generation of Zoo staff had departed, his book is mainly a history of the formative Hornaday years.

Yet perhaps this is as it should be. Hornaday, Ditmars, and Beebe were men whose like we shall not see again; and, as it turns out, each was in his own way quite a character. Few readers will be able to resist the many anecdotes about them and their times that Bridges had unearthed.

William Temple Hornaday, skilled taxidermist and sometime real-estate executive, was in the author's words "an autocrat's autocrat," a man not easily persuaded he was wrong. (Before coming to New York, he had also been the first Director of the National Zoo but left after clashing with the equally strong-willed Samuel P. Langley, then Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.) Hornaday convinced the Zoological Society to choose Bronx Park as a building site, and the Zoo that arose there was in large part a realization of his long-cherished personal dream. Throughout his tenure he was at war with the public and the press for treating his Zoo with less than proper respect. He

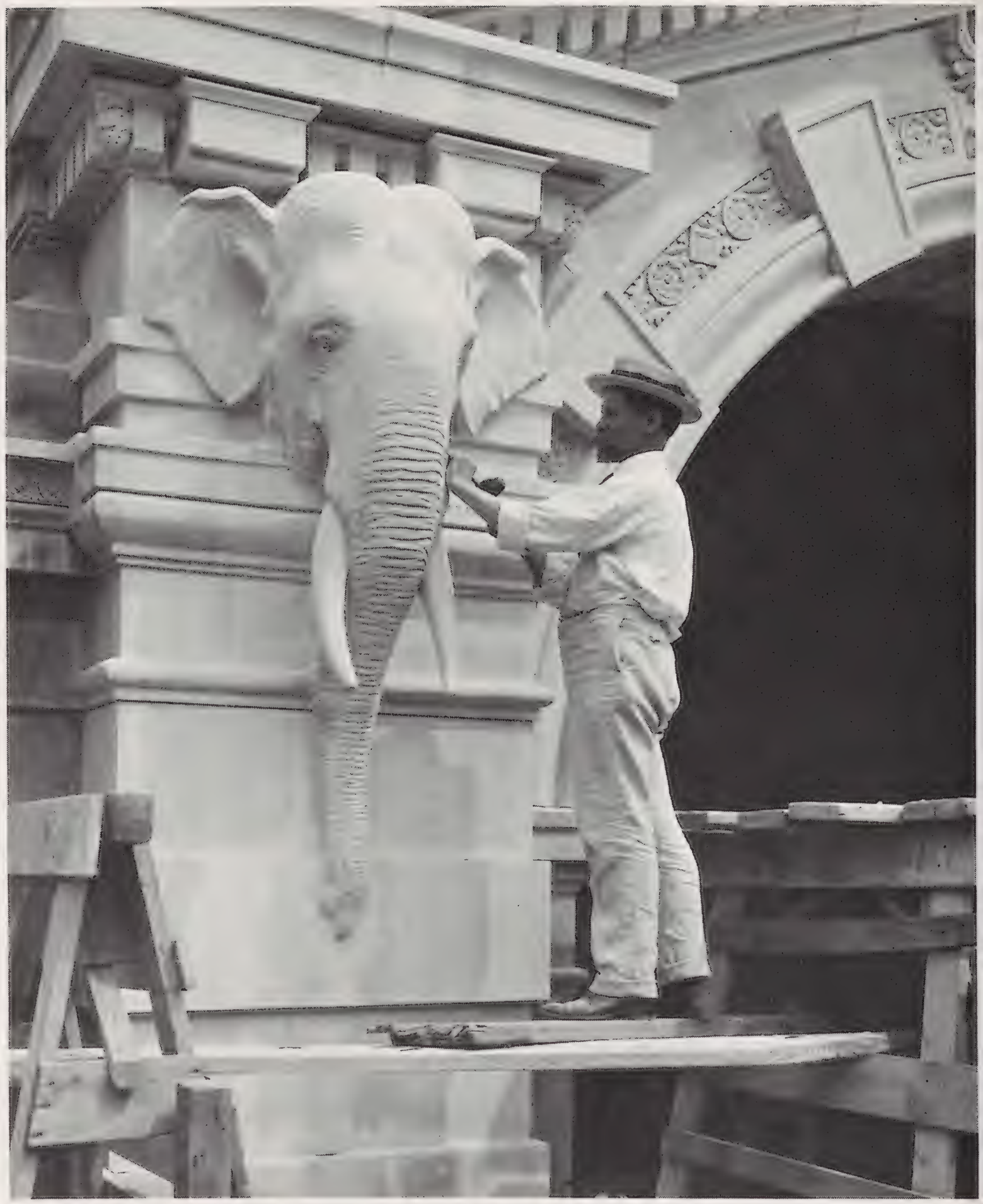
Ghunda, "the killer elephant" belies his nickname by serving as docile taxi for staff of the New York Zoological Society. Ghunda and others star in a new and unconventional history of the Bronx Zoo.

denounced litterbugs as "human swine." As for those who had the temerity to refer to the New York Zoological Park as the Bronx Zoo, Hornaday was even more scathing. In 1901 he wrote the following in identical letters to the editors of each of New York's sixteen daily newspapers:

> The nicknames "Bronx Zoo" and Bronx Park Zoo, as applied in print to the New York Zoological Society are undignified, offensive to the Zoological Society, and injurious to the Park. They are totally unnecessary, and therefore inexcusable. At this late date, the only persons for whom "Bronx" need be tacked to our name in order that they may know our locality, are newly arrived immigrants, and the harmless imbeciles in our asylums for the insane. If there is now in this city any reading individual who does not know the difference between a "Zoo" and a "Zoological Park," any one of our buffalos will take pleasure in pointing it out.

How the buffalos were to do so, the Director did not reveal.

Hornaday was a gifted showman, but on one occasion his sense of showmanship embroiled the Zoo in controversy. In 1906, Ota Benga, a young African Pygmy, was to be seen daily playing with a chimpanzee in a cage at the Primate House. Hornaday said he was "employed" to do so, but editorial writers asserted he was "exhibited."



Chipping an elephant out of stone, sculptor A.P. Proctor created a parade of zoo animals that still adorn exhibit buildings in the Bronx Zoo.

In any event, the public outcry forced Hornaday to withdraw Ota Benga from view.

In some ways Ditmars, for many years Curator of Reptiles and Mammals, was even more of a showman than his superior. Outlandish stories about his activities appeared frequently in print. Although Ditmars always denied he had said what was attributed to him, Bridges points out that he was himself a former newspaperman and suspects that he had a hand in starting more than one tall tale. In 1910, for instance, just before an insect exhibit was about to open, the press announced that Curator Ditmars, by stimulating different insects in turn, would harmonize them in playing "The Star-Spangled Banner." Public and press turned out for the opening and enjoyed themselves greatly, though no concert ever materialized.

By contrast, William Beebe, the zoo's first curator of Birds and later its Director of Tropical Research, had no interest in visitor-attracting gimmicks. He was a dedicated scientist, who came to devote less and less time to the Zoo and more and more time to field research in the tropics. Yet he was to achieve the greatest public relations coup of all when in 1934 he descended 3,028 feet below the ocean off Bermuda in a device known as the bathysphere.

Aside from the human characters, these pages are filled with animal characters of all shapes and sizes, from Gunda the killer elephant to "the chimpanzee that knew everything." I can think of few other books that give so lively an impression of the interactions of man and animal that make up the day-to-day business of a zoo. In a broader sense, working in the presence of animals for so many years seems to have given William Bridges a rare kind of detached wisdom regarding his own species. His book is excellent social history, of more than passing interest to those who are not great animal lovers as well as those who are.

A.H.

Zoo: Animals, People, Places

by Bernard Livingston

Arbor House $8.95

This book would probably not be worthy of notice had it not received favorable reviews from a number of national publications. The author spent a short time visiting a few American zoos and asking questions and did some half-hearted library research. The result is a potpourri that bears all of the marks of a rush-job.

There are, for instance, several quotes of a page or more from other, readily available works. Long speeches are attributed to various figures in the zoo world, some of whom have assured me that they can't recall having said anything of the sort. (I understand there were even greater problems along these lines when the book was circulated in galley form among some of its subjects.) Moreover, virtually every time Livingston ventures a statement on so simple a matter as the zoological classification of a species he mentions, he is dead wrong. I must confess I know little about the history of zoological collections among the ancient Egyptians and Romans; but if the author approached his sources on these topics in the same uncritical way he approached his zoological sources, the historical section of the book may also be riddled with errors.

There are a few pleasant chapters. An account of a penguin keeper at the Baltimore zoo is charming. But these are more than offset by such ludicrous passages as the lengthy one in which Livingston treats—of all things—the subject of sexual perverts in zoos. There the author displays such fantastic credulousness that this section might actually recommend *Zoo* to the truly jaded reader.

A.H.

Zoo Artist Creates Special Wildlife Series for FONZ

The National Zoo is extraordinarily fortunate in having an official resident artist of the caliber of Warren A. Cutler. And the Friends are equally fortunate; for the first time ever Mr. Cutler has agreed to produce a limited-edition series of favorite Zoo animals just for FONZ members.

Starting with the giant panda illustrated on the opposite page, the wildlife artist will create six pen and ink portraits in 1975, one with every issue of the *ZooGoer*. Other subjects planned include snowy owls, jaguars, white tiger, lesser pandas and colobus monkey. Each 18" x 24" lithograph will be produced on the finest available paper, numbered and signed personally by the artist. Print collectors may order the complete series for $60.00

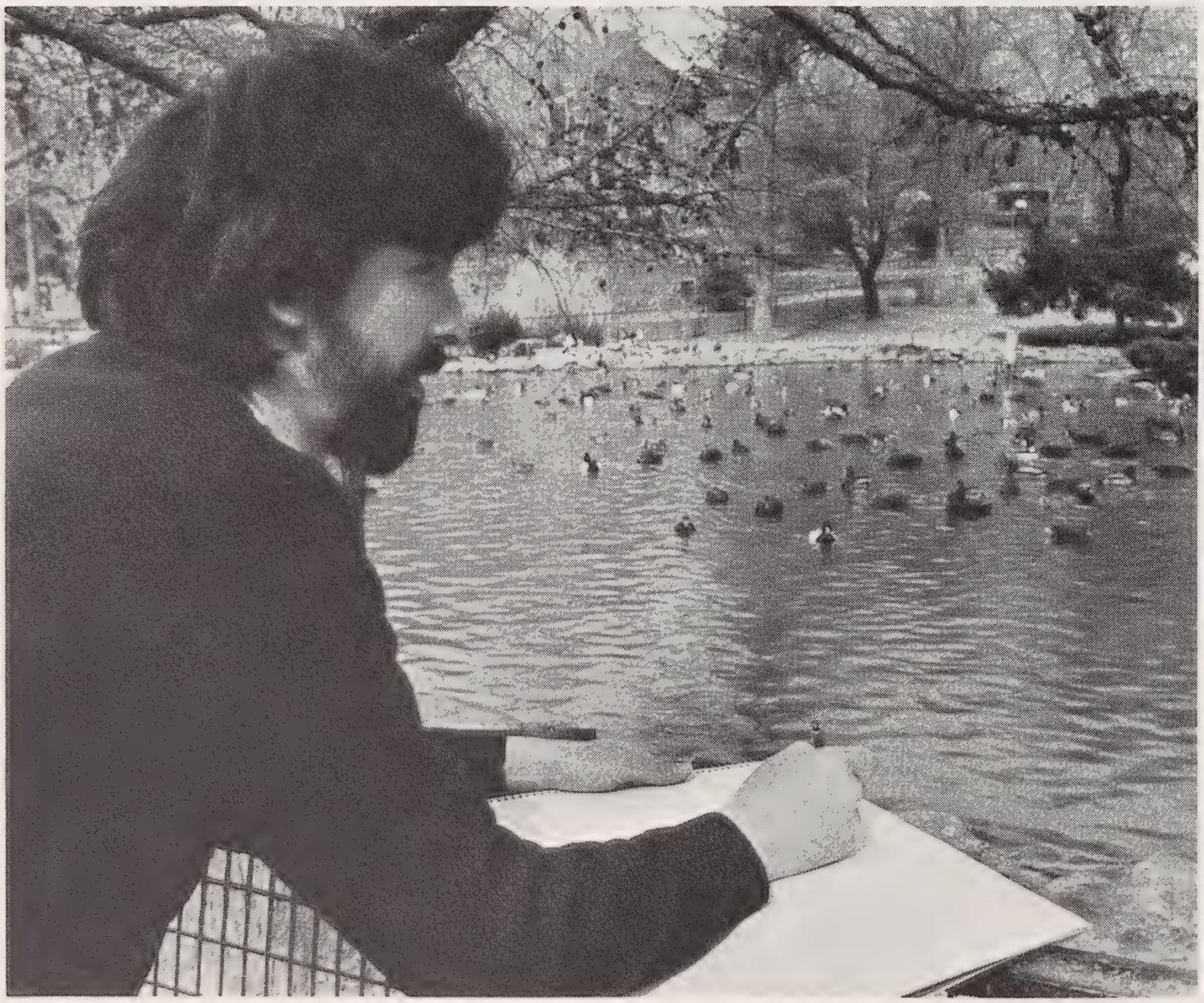
Those who purchase the entire series now will have their choice of number on a first-come first-serve basis, at the same time entitling them to first choice in next year's series. Individual prints, as available, will be $10.00 each.

A born portraitist and almost entirely self-taught like Audubon, Warren Cutler has been the official illustrator at the National Zoo since 1973. His thorough research and anatomically exact rendition of each wildlife subject has won him praise from zoologists as well as art experts. His one-man show at Mickelson Gallery in Washington was an immediate sell-out.

"Warren Cutler paints microcosms of nature with meticulous craftsmanship and a lover's devotion," praised the late H. Lester Cooke, Curator of Painting at the National Gallery of Art. "During his years of wandering from one end of the United States to the other, Warren learned to appreciate the beauty in our world. Now, the various elements of his experience and talents are coming together, and he is on his way to achieving a richly deserved place in the art of our time."

FONZ members and friends interested in reserving this special series of wildlife prints should send in their order as soon as possible by using the specially inserted card.

Warren Cutler draws true to life by close observation at the zoo.



WARREN
CUTLER
'57

FONZ NEWS

FONZ Starts New Year With Many New Programs

by Sabin Robbins
Executive Director

FONZ is welcoming the New Year appropriately. You are holding in your hand a new, and we hope improved, version of the *ZooGoer* magazine. The format has been enlarged, photographs and drawings are larger and clearer, and coverage is broadened to include FONZ as well as Zoo news. Timely zoo-related features by outside authors will also be printed periodically. We welcome your comments on the new *ZooGoer* (and any other of our programs and activities, for that matter) because FONZ exists to serve you better as well as to support education-conservation programs here at the National Zoo. If there are enough letters or questions, we will initiate a regular 'Letter to the Editor' section.

FONZ is launching the New Year with more than a new magazine. This first issue of 1975 introduces an exciting wildlife print series for members that is described in full on page 20. The limited-edition series gives you an unparalled opportunity to collect outstanding prints of favorite Zoo animals by a young artist considered by many at the Zoo to be another John James Audubon.

Other new programs for '75 include an expanded series of Zoo classes for all ages to accommodate more of our members; spring field trips to the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies and Baltimore Zoo; a sprightly and informal Newsletter written by and for our Junior Members; a patron support program that will provide scholarships for deserving students in our Zoo Classes; and a speaker program whereby FONZ executive staffers have volunteered to show our new "Zoo" film and explain the "new" National Zoo to interested civic and social organizations. If you know of area organizations that would like such a program, let us know.

And on April 1, FONZ will formally take-over and run all food services at the Zoo. Our plans for much improved, expanded, and diversified food facilities for visitors are detailed on this page.

If you have a suggestion for a "new" or needed FONZ program, let us know!

FONZ Takes Over Zoo Food Service on April 1

RESTAURANT FALLING DOWN proclaimed the banner headline in the newspaper. The hard-hitting, slightly misspelled story explained:

> The needed quick Zoo Restaurant should be rebuilt and put a bran new one up. Because every time it rains the water leaks through the top and than all of the popcorn is ruined and the keeprs cant tell whitch is the ruined popcorn and they sell it too. there customers and they feed it too the girrafes and make them get a soar throat and that would be to bad because then they could get nomonia and die and then the children of Washington would start getting tuberculosouse so you can see how much the Zoo needs a new resturant. It needs to be much bigger too because on Sunday the store is so jammed through that you can hardly breath. Somebody get us a new one quick!

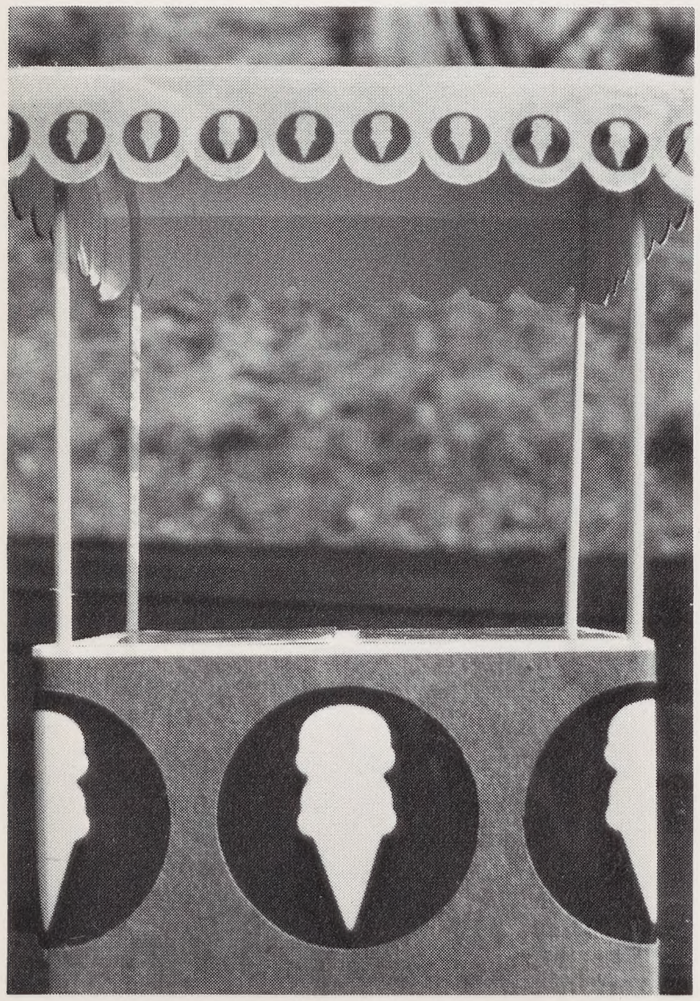
So read the front page of NICKY's NEWS. The date: 1937. The publisher-editor-in-chief-writer-designer-printer and distributor was Arthur W. Arundel, age 8!

On February 19, 1975, 38 years after that crusading editorial, Arthur W. Arundel, now President of FONZ, signed a contract with the Smithsonian

that would turn over all food service operation at the Zoo to FONZ starting April 1.

Though perhaps a bit late in coming, President Arundel announced exciting plans for new and diversified food services at the Zoo.

As time and funds permit, FONZ will redesign, re-equip, and re-paint the main restaurant to the highest standards of fast food service. New menu items will include giant hamburgers and cheeseburgers, jumbo hotdogs, fresh sliced, roast beef sandwiches as well as ham, tuna fish, and peanut butter-and-jelly, thick shakes, pies, cakes, hot and cold drinks. Uniforms, menu boards, wall decorations, tables, even the paper cups will be specially designed to give a "new look" to match the master plan graphics of the emerging new zoo.



The panda roof terrace will be transformed into a gay Bavarian Garden with umbrella tables, a menu of knockwurst, sauerkraut, hot pretzels, deli-cut sandwiches, even draft beer.

Mobile carts throughout the Zoo will serve novelty ice creams, soda, popcorn, and frozen bananas on a stick.

During the Bicentennial years, plans call for an ice cream kiosk serving scooped, high quality ice cream cones and sherbets.

And taking a page from the continental cuisine featured at many European zoos, an outdoor cafe may be built on Bird House hill with a panoramic view onto Beaver Valley. Under a canvas roof, summer diners will choose from a menu of Belgian waffles, French crepes, Spanish gazpacho, summer salads, sangria, wine, and expresso coffee.

By introducing and managing new and diverse food services at the National Zoo, FONZ hopes to make zoogoing more enjoyable for its members as well as the public.

FONZ Spring Calendar

April 5, 1975 10:30 a.m.
FREE Wildlife movies "Kangaroos," "Numbats," "Waterbirds," and "Nature's Strangest Creatures" Baird Auditorium/Museum of Natural History, 10th & Constitution Ave NW

April 12, 1975 ZOOCLASSES
"Pet Peeves & Problems" 9:00-10:00 a.m. 8-12 year olds, limited to 15. $15 for six one-hour sessions Instructor: Bernie Teeple.

"Animal Photography" 10:30-noon 16 years and older, limited to 15 $24 for six one-and-a half hour sessions Instructors: Steve Frank & Bob Oakes.

April 26, 1975 CHESAPEAKE BAY CENTER TRIP
Seven miles south of Annapolis. Highlights include boat trip on Rhode River, demonstration of trapping techniques used in small mammal research, and briefing by marine biologist. All day tour.

May 17, 1975 BALTIMORE ZOO TRIP
Behind-the-scenes tour features briefing by zoologist and sherry reception hosted by Baltimore Zoological Society.

June 6, 1975 ZOONIGHT